THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Efforts of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have brought to light at present only small isloated deposits which cannot be commercially exploited.

Closure of charge chrome Industries in Orissa

1154. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable condition of Asia's largest charge Chrome industries in Orissa due to closure of a major charge chrome plant, rendering hundreds of employees jobless, as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 22nd November, 1993;

(b) whether such a closure has been due to the unequitable distribution of the mining leases aggravating the user industries;

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to intervene and solve the issue of mining lease; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Deregulation of Mineral Processing Industry

1155. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided or contemplate to deregulate mineral processing industry to allow private sector to explore new areas with or without foreign equity participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating, benefits, the States will be deriving from it and to what extent and in which type of mines these will be allowed; and

(c) the details of proposals received or cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Private sector participation in all mineral processing industries have already been permitted, as per the statement on Industrial Policy, 1991.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

देश में सोने का वार्षिक उत्पादन

1156. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में किन-किन स्थानों पर सोने की खानें स्थित हैं;

(ख) देश में सोने का कुल वार्षिक उत्पादन कितना है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इन खानों के प्रचालन से घाटा हो रहा है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ङ) प्रत्येक राज्य और विशेषतः मध्य प्रदेश में सोने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिये कराये जा रहे सर्वेक्षणों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) देश में सोने